

Obituary: Jacob (Jacques) Voorwinde (1909-1982)

Jacques Voorwinde was born in Rotterdam, Holland on the 27th June 1910. Even as a young child he was an enthusiastic collector of shells. He took special interest in small and minute species found in fossil deposits in Holland and discovered several new records, an unusual feat in a small country with many enthusiastic collectors and a very small fauna. Because of family commitments he was forced to leave school at 12 years of age and became a hairdresser's apprentice, despite the considerable interest shown in his abilities by some prominent natural historians at the time. He joined the Dutch Malacological Society (Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging) when he was about 17 and remained a member until his death. About 1929 he worked on board a ship travelling to Indonesia and, while there, was offered a position as a malacologist in Batavia (Java). Family pressure prevented him taking advantage of this opportunity. He gained some prominence in Holland as a hairdresser but continued his work on molluscs. He also won a competition to replan the zoological gardens in Rotterdam. During the war he worked with the Dutch underground.

Jacques emigrated to Sydney in December 1950 with his wife Elizabeth and children, Robert and Margo. He quickly began pursuing his malacological interests and became acquainted with Tom Iredale and Charles Laseron as well as a number of local shell collectors. Among those whose interest he stimulated was Phil Colman, now working in the Malacology Department of The Australian Museum.

Jacques collected energetically, mainly in New South Wales and Queensland, concentrating on small species. He also played a very active role in the Sydney branch of the Malacological Society of Australia, including being its chairman. Meetings were sometimes held in his salon in George Street and his time was always given freely.

His first association with The Australian Museum was a failure. The curator of molluscs at the time, Miss Joyce Allan, refused Jacques' offer to donate his large collection of European Mollusca and this was, shortly afterwards, returned to Holland. In 1956, when Dr D.F. McMichael took charge of the Malacology Department, his knowledge and assistance was gladly accepted. His freely-given voluntary work was acknowledged by the conferring of an Honorary Associateship on him in 1965. As a voluntary helper he mainly sorted samples containing microscopic shells, and even using girls employed in his salon to assist with chores in the Department of Malacology. His very extensive collection of Australian Mollusca was sold to The Australian Museum in 1967. During the 1970s he devoted a considerable amount of time to the Museum, mainly working at his home, until a few weeks before his death on the 27th July 1982. The many thousands of hours of painstaking sorting done by Jacques has produced a huge collection of small molluscs which is, and will be, used by many research workers around the world.

Several taxa have been named after Jacques Voorwinde. These include:- *Hinemoa voorwindei* Laseron, 1959; *Pronucula voorwindei* Bergmans, 1969; *Favartia (Murexiella) voorwindei* Ponder, 1973; *Pisinna voorwindei* Ponder and Yoo, 1976; *Eatoniopsis (Boogina) voorwindei* Ponder and Yoo, 1980. *Glibertia prosperi* van der Meulen, 1951 was also dedicated to him. In addition a new genus of the Rissoidae is shortly to be dedicated to Jacques Voorwinde.

PUBLICATIONS

1966 (with D.F. McMichael). Illustrations of unfigured New South Wales marine molluscs, Part 1. *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.*, 10: 13-20.

1966. A classification of some Rissoacea from the Western Pacific. *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.*, 10: 41-46.

W.F. Ponder and M. Christie.